



WIGSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1946.

JOHN. R. BYARS, MB., ChB., DPH.
Medical Officer of Health.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30277784>

WIGSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

for the year 1946.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the District for the year 1946.

As this report deals with a period when my predecessor was your Medical Officer of Health, it has, of necessity, been prepared from records and with the very valuable assistance of Mr. Fred. Boustead Ashbridge, Sanitary Inspector.

The general health of the District has been satisfactory. Scarlet Fever is the only infectious disease which was at all prevalent, and then only in a mild form.

Of Vital Statistics, the increased birth rate, only exceeded once in the past ten years, is of interest, while it is to be hoped that the drop in the illegitimate birth rate means that the peak has been passed.

There is a slight increase in deaths of children under one year of age. It is to be hoped that the increased knowledge of new-born infant blood diseases and schemes for the better care of certain types of infant will save many children when facilities are available to put the knowledge to practical use.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN R. BYARS.

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

<u>Area (in acres)</u>	3,447
<u>Number of inhabited houses (end of 1946)</u> according to rate books.....	4,257
<u>Rateable Value, 1st April 1946</u>	£67,179
<u>Sum represented by a penny rate</u>	£258

POPULATION:-

1946 Registrar General's estimate.....	14,230
1931 Census, adjusted for subsequent changes in boundary.....	10,905

TABLE showing the Registrar General's estimate of
the changes in population during the last ten years:-

1937	12,570	1942 a).....	13,310
1938	12,690	b)	
1939 a).....	12,960	1943	13,110
b).....	12,980	1944	13,290
1940 a).....	12,990	1945	13,340
b)		1946	14,230
1941 a).....	13,580		
b)			

a = population appropriate to calculation of death rate.
b = population appropriate to calculation of birth rate.

BIRTHS:-

		1945	1946
<u>Live Births:-</u>	Legitimate...		
	Male	124	154
	Female	105	147
	Total	229	301
	Illegitimate		
	Male	17	12
	Female	8	6
	Total	25	18
Total live births.....	Male	141	166
	Female	113	153
	Total	254	319
<u>Stillbirths:-</u>	Legitimate...		
	Male	4	4
	Female	2	5
	Total	6	9
	Illegitimate		
	Male	Nil	Nil
	Female	Nil	Nil
	Total	Nil	Nil
Total stillbirths	Male	4	4
	Female	2	5
	Total	6	9

<u>Birthrate per 1,000 estimated population:-</u>	1945	1946.
Wigston.....	19.0	22.4
England & Wales.....	16.1	19.1

<u>Illegitimate birthrate per 1,000 live births:-</u>		
Wigston.....	98.4	56.4

<u>Stillbirths:-</u> Rate per 1,000 live and still		
births.....	23.1	27.4

<u>Stillbirths:-</u> Rate per 1,000 estimated population		
Wigston.....	0.45	0.63
England & Wales.....	0.46	0.53

TABLE showing the changes in the total live births and in the birth rates during the past ten years:-

Year	Total live births Wigston	Birth Rates (per 1,000 population.)		
		Wigston	Leicestershire	England & Wales.
1937	253	20.0	14.9	14.9
1938	230	18.1	15.3	15.1
1939	229	17.7	15.0	15.0
1940	224	17.3	15.1	14.6
1941	225	17.7	14.6	14.2
1942	261	19.6	17.3	15.8
1943	287	21.9	19.6	16.5
1944	315	23.7	21.1	17.6
1945	254	19.0	18.8	16.1
1946	319	22.4	20.6	19.1

DEATHS:-

	1945	1946
<u>Total Number of Deaths, Male.....</u>	66	81
Female	80	76
Total.....	146	157
<u>Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population:-</u>		
Wigston.....	10.9	11.1
England & Wales.....	11.4	11.5

TABLE showing the changes in the total number of deaths and in the death rates during the past ten years:-

Year	Total Deaths Wigston	Death Rates (per 1,000 population) Not corrected for age or for sex distribution of the population.		
		Wigston	Leicestershire	England & Wales.
1937	131	10.4	11.9	12.4
1938	137	10.7	10.5	11.6
1939	142	10.9	10.8	12.1
1940	162	12.5	12.4	14.3
1941	167	12.3	11.0	12.9
1942	136	10.2	10.4	11.6
1943	174	13.3	11.3	12.1
1944	160	12.0	11.2	11.6
1945	146	10.9	11.1	11.4
1946	157	11.1	10.7	11.5

<u>Deaths from puerperal causes:-</u>		1945	1946.
<u>No. of deaths:-</u>	Puerperal sepsis.....	Nil	Nil
	Other puerperal causes.....	1	Nil
<u>Rate per 1,000 live and still births:-</u>			
	Wigston.....	3.8	Nil
	England and Wales.....	1.79	1.43

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:-

No. of Deaths:-	Legitimate.....	Male	4	8
		Female	4	5
		Total	8	13
	Illegitimate.....	Male	1	Nil
		Female	1	1
		Total	2	1
	Total infant deaths.....		10	14

Infant mortality per 1,000 live births:-

Wigston.....	39	44
England & Wales.....	46	43

TABLE showing deaths of infants under one year and infant mortality rates during the past ten years:-

Year	Total Infant deaths.	Infant Mortality Rates per 1,000 live births.		
		Wigston	Leicestershire	England & Wales.
1937	10	39	49	58
1938	12	52	44	53
1939	14	61	46	50
1940	11	49	46	55
1941	18	70	50	59
1942	20	77	47	49
1943	18	63	42	49
1944	12	38	37	46
1945	10	39	36	46
1946	14	44	36	43

Total Deaths, classified according to age and sex:-

<u>Age Group</u>		1945		1946	
		m.	f.	m.	f.
Under 1 year of age.....		5	5	8	6
Over 1 year and under 5 years.,....		1	1	2	1
" 5 years "	" 10 "	-	1	-	-
" 10 "	" 15 "	2	-	-	-
" 15 "	" 25 "	-	1	1	2
" 25 "	" 35 "	1	6	4	-
" 35 "	" 45 "	4	4	3	4
" 45 "	" 55 "	5	5	10	8
" 55 "	" 65 "	14	10	9	7
" 65 "	" 75 "	15	15	18	11
" 75 "	" 85 "	15	26	20	31
Over 85 years.....		4	6	6	6
Total deaths.....		66	80	81	76

Causes of Death:-Registrar General's Classification:-

	1945			1946.		
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-spinal fever.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Scarlet fever.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
4. Whooping-cough	-	-	-	1	-	1
5. Diphtheria.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
6. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	-	1	1	7	1	8
7. Tuberculosis, non-respiratory.....	1	-	1	1	1	2
8. Syphilitic diseases.....	-	-	-	1	-	1
9. Influenza.....	-	-	-	1	-	1
10. Measles.....	1	-	1	-	-	-
11. Acute poliomyelitis and polio- encephalitis.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
12. Acute infectious encephalitis.....	-	-	-	-	-	-
13. Cancer, of bucal cavity and oesophagus (M) and uterus (F)....	1	3	4	-	-	-
14. Cancer of stomach or duodenum.....	3	3	6	2	1	3
15. Cancer of breast.....	-	3	3	-	3	3
16. Cancer, all other sites.....	10	2	12	6	2	8
17. Diabetes.....	-	-	-	1	1	2
18. Intra cranial vascular lesions....	2	8	10	6	10	16
19. Heart disease.....	20	24	44	24	23	47
20. Other diseases of the circulatory system.....	2	4	6	1	-	1
21. Bronchitis.....	6	1	7	5	5	10
22. Pneumonia.....	-	6	6	1	2	3
23. Other respiratory diseases.....	-	1	1	-	1	1
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.....	1	1	2	-	-	-
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)..	-	-	-	-	-	-
26. Appendicitis.....	-	-	-	-	1	1
27. Other digestive diseases.....	1	2	3	3	-	3
28. Nephritis.....	1	5	6	5	6	11
29. Puerperal and post abortion sepsis	-	-	-	-	-	-
30. Other maternal causes.....	-	1	1	-	-	-
31. Premature birth.....	1	1	2	4	5	9
32. Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infantile diseases.....	3	-	3	2	1	3
33. Suicide.....	2	-	2	-	-	-
34. Road traffic accidents.....	4	1	5	1	-	1
35. Other violent causes.....	-	2	2	2	1	3
36. All other causes.....	7	11	18	7	12	19
Total deaths, all causes.....	66	80	146	81	76	157

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Sanitary Inspector:-

Mr. Fred Boustead Ashbridge,
Cert SIB., MRSanI., MSIA.

I am indebted to Mr. Ashbridge for the following information upon the sanitary circumstances of the area:-

Water Supply:-

The Leicester Corporation mains convey an adequate supply of water throughout the district with the exception of a part of the parish of East Wigston, which is of a rural character. Negotiations are at present in hand to provide a supply to three farm premises and nine dwelling-houses in the Newton Lane area of East Wigston.

(a) Number of dwelling-houses having a piped water supply laid into the houses.....	4,187
Population concerned,.....	13,997
(b) Number of dwelling-houses supplied from stand-pipes.....	56
Population concerned.....	180
(c) Number of wells in use.....	14
Number of dwelling-houses served by wells....	14
Population concerned.....	53

Five wells were cleansed during the year.

Sewage:-

A new sewer is at present in course of construction to provide for housing developments in the Aylestone Lane - Station Road area.

On the 31st December there were 27 cesspools in the district.

Closet Accomodation:-

Approximate number in the district:-

(a) Privies.....	Nil
(b) Pail closets.....	24
(c) Water closets.....	4,817

Public Cleansing and Salvage:-

An efficient service continues to be maintained. Kitchen waste is collected twice a week, and other salvage and refuse is collected once a fortnight. Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping.

Pail closets are emptied each week, and cesspools are emptied once a fortnight.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area:-

Total no. of complaints received during the year... 161
 Total no. of defects or nuisances discovered..... 502

Total No. of inspections made:-	<u>First Inspections</u>	<u>Revisits.</u>
Animal keeping.....	36	78
Bakehouses.....	5	10
Dairies and Cowsheds.....	55	168
Drainage works.....	12	36
Dwelling-houses (all purposes)..	462	1102
Food premises.....	28	56
Offensive trades.....	Nil	Nil
Rats and mice destruction.....	39	92
Refuse collection & disposal....	368	778
Schools.....	Nil	Nil
Shops.....	36	77
Slaughter-house and meat in- spection.....	8	68
Tents, vans, sheds etc.....	3	6
Verminous premises & scabies....	12	40
Water supplies.....	16	25
Workshops.....	8	24
Other inspections.....	62	102
Total inspections.....	1150	2662.

Notices served during the year:-

<u>Preliminary:-</u>	<u>Housing</u>	<u>Public Health</u>
Outstanding on January 1st 1946	15	33
Issued during the year.....	18	384
Complied with during the year...	33	364
Statutory action necessary.....	Nil	Nil
Outstanding on December 31st/46.	Nil	53

Statutory:-

Outstanding on January 1st/46..	Nil	Nil
Issued during the year.....	1	Nil
Complied with during the year..	1	Nil
Outstanding on December 31st/46	Nil	Nil

No summary action was taken during the year.

Shops:-

Defects found in sanitary conveniences during the year.....	4
Defects remedied during the year.....	4
Defects in temperature found during the year.....	2
Defects in temperature remedied during the year..	2
Defects in ventilation found during the year.....	2
Defects in ventilation remedied during the year..	2
Defects outstanding on December 31st 1946.....	Nil.

Regulated Buildings:-

Number of dwelling-vans in the area.....	3
Number of inspections made.....	6
Action taken.....	Nil
General conditions.....	Good

The vans are semi-permanent, with main water and drainage available. They are not over-crowded.
There is no lodging-house in the area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs:-

Number of council houses found infested.....	2
Number of other houses found infested.....	10
Number of houses disinfested.....	12
Number of disinfectations carried out by local authority.....	12
Number of disinfectations carried out by outside contractor.....	Nil

Swimming Baths open to the Public:-

There is one public swimming bath in the area.
This is closed because of its unsatisfactory water supply.

Schools:-

There was no defect or nuisance at any of the schools in the area, and no action was necessary.

H O U S I N G.1. New Houses:-

Number of applications for council houses at the end of the year.....	1200
Programme of new council houses to be erected:-	
First year.....	112
Subsequent years.....	332
Number of houses erected during the year by private enterprise.....	23
Number of houses in course of construction at the end of year, by private enterprise.....	19

2. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

a. Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....	462
Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	1102
b. Number of dwelling-houses (including those above) inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932.....	Nil.

- c. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human inhabitation..... Nil
- d. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those in previous sub-heading) found to be not in all respects fit for human inhabitation..... 32
3. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:-
- Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or its officers..... 32
4. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:- Nil.
5. Housing Act 1936 - Part IV., Overcrowding:-

Owing to the absence of building during the war years there is now considerable over-crowding in the area. Every effort is made to alleviate conditions of over-crowding, particularly in cases where it is such as to affect the health of the persons concerned, and the situation will improve considerably when the new council houses have been completed.

THE INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk:-

(1) Retailers (other than cow-keepers):-

Number on Register.....	64
Number of inspections made.....	18
Number of contraventions found.....	Nil
Number of contraventions outstanding from 1945.	Nil.

(2) Producers (including those who retail milk):-

Number on Register.....	16
Number of inspections made.....	64
Number of contraventions found.....	5
Contraventions outstanding from 1945.....	Nil
Contraventions remedied.....	5
Contraventions outstanding on Dec 31st 1946....	Nil.

Of the five contraventions, three were concerned with cleansing, one with utensils and one with structural alterations.

Milk Sampling:-

Designated Milk:-	Total number of samples taken	
(Pasteurised)	for bacteriological examination.	44
	Number found satisfactory.....	44

Ordinary Milk:-	Total number of samples taken	
	for bacteriological examination.	127
	Number found satisfactory.....	121

Investigations are made when any samples are found unsatisfactory, and repeat samples are taken.

In four cases a warning was issued.

Meat and Other Foods:-

There are no regional slaughter-houses in the area. Two slaughter-houses are open for the slaughter of cottagers' pigs. 68 animals have been slaughtered in the district during the year. All the carcasses were inspected. No whole carcase was condemned, but in 5 cases a part or an organ of the carcase was condemned.

<u>No. of Inspections:-</u>	Knackers Yards.....	8
	Meat Stalls.....	Nil
	Meat shops and stores.....	16
	Places where food other than meat is kept or prepared for sale.....	32

LABORATORY REPORT.

The following examinations were carried out in the County Laboratory:-

Milk examinations (bacteriological).....	271
Sputa for T.B.....	53
Milk for phosphatase test.....	57
Urine (general and bacteriological).....	33
Swabs for diphtheria.....	21
Urine for T.B.....	13
Sewage and water analyses.....	Nil
Films for gonococci.....	1
Milk for fat content.....	Nil
Blood counts.....	2
Miscellaneous.....	3
Total examinations.....	454

I N F E C T I O U S D I S E A S E S.General Review:-

The incidence of infectious diseases was on the whole, lower than in 1945.

Scarlet fever continued in to 1946, and provided the highest number of cases of infectious disease, but the measles prevalent in 1945 was not carried over.

In the table showing the number of cases notified, it will be seen that all cases are not notified, since the number admitted to hospital may exceed the number of notifications. For dangerously infectious diseases, however, doctors are always very co-operative.

Diphtheria Immunisation:-

Four cases of diphtheria occurred in the district during 1946, all in older children

The campaign for 100% immunisation continues, but while the majority of parents now realise the value of this treatment, a small number still allow their children to run the risk of this dangerous disease. Some ex-service men seem to remember only painful inoculations, and refuse to submit their children to this painless procedure because of their own experiences, while other parents do not bring their children for the second injection because of a slight reaction to the first. In spite of repeated advice, their concern for their children manifests itself in refusal of immunisation, when it should really put them in the forefront of the demand for protection.

TABLE showing cases of infectious disease notified during the year.

Disease	Under	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	65-	Unknown	Total	To Hospital	Deaths
Measles	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	1	-	-	-	7	1	-
Scarlet Fever	-	4	7	13	8	5	-	-	-	-	1	38	23	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	-
Whooping-cough	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
Erysipelas	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	-	6	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	3	4	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
C.S. Meningitis	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	7	3
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	-

"To Hospital" includes cases where the diagnosis was not subsequently confirmed.

TABLE showing particulars of new cases and deaths from Tuberculosis.

Age Group.	New Cases						Deaths.			
	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	M.	F.		M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
From 1 to 5 years	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
" 5 " 15 "	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
" 15 " 25 "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" 25 " 35 "	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" 35 " 45 "	6	2	-	2	1	-	2	1	-	-
" 45 " 55 "	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
" 55 " 65 "	4	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Over 65 years	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Total	13	6	5	5	1		7	1	1	1

Tuberculosis:-

The following table shows the numbers of deaths from Tuberculosis during recent years:-

Year	Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Deaths from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Total Deaths.
1925	12	4	16
1926	12	2	14
1927	10	2	12
1928	7	5	12
1929	7	1	8
1930	9	1	10
1931	8	2	10
1932	9	3	12
1933	8	1	9
1934	4	1	5
1935	7	2	9
1936	3	Nil	3
1937	3	3	6
1938	8	3	11
1939	6	1	7
1940	3	2	5
1941	6	4	10
1942	5	2	7
1943	6	Nil	6
1944	4	3	7
1945	1	1	2
1946	8	2	10

APPENDIX.

I am indebted to Mr. G. F. Stacey, Surveyor to the Wigston U.D.C for the following report:-

RAINFALL DURING 1946.

At:- Wigston U.D.C.Sewage Farm,
In:- The County of Leicester.

Diameter of Funnel..... 8 inches.
Height of top above ground..... 9 inches.
Hieght of ground level above sea 156.85 feet.

Month	Depth	Greatest fall in 24 hours.	Number of days with:-	
			.01" or more	.04" or more
Jan	1.42"	.29", on 10th.	14	10
Feb	2.82"	.38" on 23rd	16	13
Mar	.78"	.17" on 22nd	9	8
Apl	1.85"	.43" on 5th	10	6
May	1.41"	.43" on 19th	13	8
Jun	2.93"	.32" on 11th	22	17
Jly	1.69"	.55" on 18th	10	8
Aug	4.36"	1.16" on 10th	17	14
Sep	4.51"	1.50" on 21st	18	17
Oct	1.06"	.50" on 27th	7	5
Nov	5.58"	.94" on 15th	21	18
Dec	2.28"	.47" on 9th	23	16.
Total 30.69 inches			180 days	140 days

